Ashes of Life

Love has gone and left me and the days are all alike;  
  Eat I must, and sleep I will, -- and would that night were here!  
But ah! -- to lie awake and hear the slow hours strike!  
  Would that it were day again! -- with twilight near!

Love has gone and left me and I don't know what to do;  
  This or that or what you will is all the same to me;  
But all the things that I begin I leave before I'm through, --  
  There's little use in anything as far as I can see.

Love has gone and left me, -- and the neighbors knock and borrow,  
  And life goes on forever like the gnawing of a mouse, --  
And to-morrow and to-morrow and to-morrow and to-morrow  
  There's this little street and this little house.

Sorrow

Sorrow like a ceaseless rain  
  Beats upon my heart.  
People twist and scream in pain, --  
Dawn will find them still again;  
This has neither wax nor wane,  
  Neither stop nor start.

People dress and go to town;  
  I sit in my chair.  
All my thoughts are slow and brown:  
Standing up or sitting down  
Little matters, or what gown  
  Or what shoes I wear.

The Little Ghost

I knew her for a little ghost  
  That in my garden walked;  
The wall is high -- higher than most --  
  And the green gate was locked.

And yet I did not think of that  
  Till after she was gone --  
I knew her by the broad white hat,  
  All ruffled, she had on.

By the dear ruffles round her feet,  
  By her small hands that hung  
In their lace mitts, austere and sweet,  
  Her gown's white folds among.

I watched to see if she would stay,  
  What she would do -- and oh!  
She looked as if she liked the way  
  I let my garden grow!

She bent above my favourite mint  
  With conscious garden grace,  
She smiled and smiled -- there was no hint  
  Of sadness in her face.

She held her gown on either side  
  To let her slippers show,  
And up the walk she went with pride,  
  The way great ladies go.

And where the wall is built in new  
  And is of ivy bare  
She paused -- then opened and passed through  
  A gate that once was there.